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walls are folded or plaited right and left like the sides of the bellows of an accordeon, the plaits being widest at the bottom, or attached ends, and diminish outward toward the exposed surface. These cells are somewhat irregular, but are usually six sided. If a superficial or thin tangential section of the seed-coat is carefully experimented upon, the mucilaginous cells may be expanded and contracted several times before their contents so far disappear as to arrest further action.

If the student attempts to study the mucilaginous covering without making a section the expansion of the cells and the outward flow of their contents are so slow as to be disappointing. When the thin section has been brought into the field of the high power lens it is well for a neighboring student or an assistant to add the drop of water, thus giving the experimenter the entire use of his time for making the observation.—BYRON D. HALSTED.

Alaskan plants.—List of plants collected during the summer of 1885, at Ounalashka, by Mr. S. Applegate, the United States Signal Observer at that station. The list, although small, contains several species of great rarity and interest:

Cardamine pratensis L.	Festuca rubra L.
Draba hirta L.	Bromus Aleutensis Trin.
Leptarrhena pyrolifolia R. Br.	Poa pratensis L.
Epilobium angustifolium L. ? Fragments only.	Deschampsia atropurpurea Scheele.
Oxyria digyna Camp.	Deschampsia cespitosa P. Br., var. longiflora Trin.
Luzula campestris DC.	Trisetum subspicatum P. Br., var. molle Gray.
Luzula spadicea DC., var. parviflora Led.	Deyeuxia Aleutica Vasey.
Juncus arcticus Willd.	Deyeuxia Langsdorffii Kunth.
Juncus Scheuchzeri Hoppe.	Agrostis canina L.
Carex decidua Boott. Very rare: the third station in North America. (Fide Bailey in litt. Oct. 22, 1886.)	Agrostis exarata Trin.
Carex podocarpa R. Br.	Equisetum variegatum Schl.
Carex limosa L., var. stygia Bailey.	Cryptogramme acrosticoides R. Br.

I am indebted to Dr. Vasey and Prof. L. H. Bailey, Jr., for assistance in determining the sedges and grasses.—F. H. KNOWLTON, *U. S. Nat. Museum*.

EDITORIAL.

WITH THIS number the GAZETTE for 1886 is complete. The 350 pages that we have given to our readers represent the best botanical activity of the country, and the fact that several important papers presented this year cannot appear until next, on account of the pressure upon our pages, goes to show that this activity has been unusually great. It is very evident that botanists are working now as never before in this country. Perhaps there is no more interest in the general subject of botany, but there is more independent and valuable work. Our friends have said that the GAZETTE has been no small influence in encouraging this activity. Whether this is true or not, the botanical signs for 1887 are most encouraging. American botanists are fully awake, and the next year gives promise of much good work. Every botanist should feel called upon to help along this progress, both by making some contribution to botanical knowledge himself, and by warmly supporting a botanical journal that